

AK

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/669,257

Examiner

Tuan T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ARAI ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/25/03; 7/15/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Attachment A: Search History.

RICHARD ELMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Art Unit: 2824

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/25/03 and 07/15/04 were filed after the mailing date of the present application. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 2, 3 lines 2, 3, 4, change "blanch" to – branch –

Claims 2, 3, 10, line 3, change "low" to – row –

Claim 10, lines 2, 3, 4, change "blanch" to – branch –

Claim 11, lines 2, 3, 4, 5, change "blanch" to – branch –

Claim 11, line 4, change "low" to – row –

Claim 21, line 3, change "the clock" to – a clock --

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-21 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fail to disclose a semiconductor integrated circuit, in combination with other cited limitations, comprising a plurality of first power branch lines formed on the unit cell array for supplying the power source potential to the logic unit cells, the first power branch lines connected each other and connected to the power trunk line; and a plurality of second power branch lines formed on the unit cell array for supplying the power source potential to the clock unit cells, the second power branch lines connected each other and connected to the power trunk line as recited in claims 1-7.

The prior art of record further fail to disclose a semiconductor integrated circuit, in combination with other cited limitations, comprising a first power trunk line formed on a peripheral area of the unit cell array, the first power trunk line supplying a power source potential; a second power trunk line formed on the peripheral area, the second power trunk line supplying the power source potential, the first and second power trunk line being disconnected in the peripheral area; a plurality of first power branch lines formed on the unit cell array for supplying the power source potential to the logic unit cells, the first power branch lines connected each other and connected to the first power trunk line; and a plurality of second power branch lines formed on the unit cell array for supplying the power source potential to the clock unit cells, the second power branch lines connected each other and connected to the second power trunk line as recited in claims 9-16.

The prior art of record also fail to disclose a semiconductor integrated circuit, in combination with other cited limitations, comprising a first power branch line provided along a row direction of the matrix, the first power branch line supplying a source potential and a ground potential to the logic unit cells; a second power branch line provided along the row direction, the

Art Unit: 2824

second power branch line supplying the source potential and the ground potential to the clock unit cells; and a power trunk line connected to ends of the first power branch line and the second power branch line as recited in claims 17-21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Kono et al (US 6,229,753) disclose a semiconductor memory device capable of accurate control of internally produced power supply potential.
- b. Kengeri et al. (US 5,717,645) disclose a RAM with fast compact sensing and selection circuit
- c. Higuchi (US 6,567,328) discloses a memory macro with modular peripheral circuit elements.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1880. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

Art Unit: 2824

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan T. Nguyen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

March 7, 2005

Tuan T. Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2824